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ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the Year 1942.

Public Health Staff.

(1) Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Thomas Forsyth, M.B. Ch.B.(Glas) D.P.H.(Camb)

(2) Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector (Full Time) - John P.Cook, Cert.R.S.I.,M.S.I.A.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ending 31st December,1942.

SECTION A:-

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	28,073
Resident Population, R.G's estimate midyear 1942	13,320
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,725
Rateable Value	£49,411
Sum represented by a penny rate	£195-16-8

The chief industries in the Area are:- (1) Agriculture, (2) Coal Mining, (3) Brickmaking, (4) Stone-ware and Pipe making and (5) Stone Quarrying. No particular industry was noted as having a specially injurious effect on the health during the year.

Vital Statistics.

		Total	Male	Female.
Live Births	Legitimate	208	116	105
	Illegitimate	13	6	7
		221	122	112

Birth Rate = 16.59 per 1000 population.

England & Wales Birth Rate 1942 = 15.8 per 1000 population.

		Total.	Male.	Female.
Still Births	Legitimate	8	5	3
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
		8	5	3

Still Birth Rate = 34.9 per 1000 (live & still) Births.

or Still Birth Rate = 0.60 per 1000 population.

England & Wales Still Birth Rate 1942 = 0.54 per 1000 pop.

DEATHS.

Total.	Male.	Female.
163	85	78

Death Rate = 12.23 per 1000 population.

England & Wales Death Rate 1942 = 11.6 per 1000 population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

	Deaths.
(a) Puerperal Sepsis	0
(b) Other Puerperal Causes	0
	0

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	11	9	2
Illegitimate	0	0.	0
	11	9	2

Infantile Mortality Rate = 49.77 per 1000 live births.
Infantile Mortality Rate England & Wales = 49. per 1000 live births.

Death Rate of Legitimate Infants = 52.8 per 1000 live births.
Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants = Nil.

During 1942 deaths occurred from the following diseases:-

Cancer (all ages)	28.
Measles (all ages)	0
Whooping Cough(all ages)	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs)	1

Causes of Death during 1942.

Diseases.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Diphtheria	2	0	2
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	3	2	5
Tuberculosis (Other forms)	3	0	3
Influenza	1	1	2
Cancer (Buccal Cavity M)(Uterus F)	0	1	1
Cancer (Stomach & Duodenum)	1	2	3
Cancer (Breast)	0	4	4
Cancer (All other sites)	10	10	20
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	9	14	23
Heart Disease	18	15	33
Other diseases of Circulatory System	1	3	4
Bronchitis	1	3	4
Pneumonia	3	2	5
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	2	1	3
Diarrhoea under 2 years.	1	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases	4	2	6
Nephritis	6	6	12
Premature Birth.	1	0	1
Congenital Malformation etc.	6	1	7
Suicide	1	0	1
Road Traffic Accidents	1	1	2
Other Violent Causes	7	1	8
All other causes.	4	9	13
	85	78	163

Chief causes of death in 1942 were:-
Heart Disease 33, Cancer 28, Cerebral Haemorrhage 23, Nephritis 12, Tuberculosis 8 and Pneumonia 5.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Hospitals:-

1. (a) Fever - Hospitals provided by the Leicestershire Combined Hospitals Committee. The nearest to your district is the Markfield Isolation Hospital (54 beds)

(b) Smallpox - Hospitals are provided by the County Council at Syston and Snarestone. Snarestone Smallpox Hospital (23 beds) is situated in your District.

(c) Tuberculosis - The County Sanatorium at Markfield (126 beds) is adequately equipped for the diagnosis and treatment of all types of tuberculosis.

2. Maternity - Provision is made for cases requiring institutional treatment in the Leicester & Leicestershire Maternity Hospital and in Leicester Royal Infirmary.
The Maternity Wing of the Ashby Cottage Hospital is much used in cases of Midwifery.
The Fairhaven Nursing and Maternity Hospital, Shellbrook Ashby-de-la-Zouch is also available.
From the surrounding parishes the Coalville Maternity Home, London Road, Coalville is also much used.

3. Children - Children are admitted to Leicester Royal Infirmary and Loughborough Infirmary. Operative treatment for enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids is available at Ashby Cottage Hospital and is carried out by the Visiting Surgeon, Mr.Holford,F.R.C.S(Ed)

4. Other - Delicate and illnourished children from 3 to 5 years of age are received at the Childrens' Convalescent Home at Woodhouse Eaves.

Laboratory Facilities:-

Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations are provided for in the County Council Laboratory, Leicester.

Ambulance Facilities:-

(a) Infectious Diseases are removed by Ambulances provided by the Leicestershire Combined Isolations Committee.

(b) Non-Infectious Diseases and Civilian Accidents are removed by ambulance supplied by St.John's Ambulance Brigade, Coalville.

(c) Ambulances are provided by the Mine Owners Association for accidents in Collieries.

Clinics and Treatment Centres:-

These are provided by the County Council. There are no Clinics held in your district. An Infant Welfare Centre is held weekly in the Baptist School-room, Ashby-de-la-Zouch and at the Health Centre, Bridge Road, Coalville. At the Health Centre, Coalville, school and dental clinics are held - An Orthopaedic Centre is held twice weekly and a Tuberculosis Dispensary is held weekly. Venereal Diseases Clinic is held at Leicester Royal Infirmary.

General District Nurses are provided in most of the Parishes or Combined Parishes by local effort and supervised by the County Council. Midwifery is undertaken by most of the District Nurses. There is no provision for nursing such diseases as measles in the home. Infectious diseases are not attended by the District Nurse.

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SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(1) Water Supply:-

The Public Water supply from a deep well at Acresford, to the Parishes of Measham, Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe has been satisfactory in quantity and quality throughout the year.

The Public Water supply from the two boreholes at Heather, supplying the Parishes of Heather, Ravenstone, Swannington, Coleorton, Worthington and Osgathorpe has been ample in quantity and satisfactory in quality.

Three Parishes, Packington, Bardon Hill and Appleby Magna, with some of the outlying farms are supplied by wells.

Number of samples taken for analysis:- 16

	Results.			
	Satisfactory.		Unsatisfactory.	
	Chemical	Bacteriological	Chemical	Bacteriological
From Wells	5	4	9	10
From Pipe Supply	2	2	0	0

Number of wells closed...34... Number of wells cleansed etc...5....

Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water 51.

Number of Parishes with piped water supply:-

(a) From Public Mains...12.... (b) From Private Reservoirs...2 .

Number of Parishes without a piped water supply...3....

The piped water supplies are satisfactory in quantity and quality. The water supply from wells in agricultural parishes fairly good. No shortage occurred during the year. No extension of public water supplies was made during 1942. Some existing wells have been earmarked to supplement water supply for emergency use.

(2) Drainage & Sewerage:-

Number of cesspools constructed during year ...1...

Number of cesspools abolished during the year...0..

Total number in district on 31st December 1942...206...

No extension of sewerage was carried out during the year.

A small sewage works at Newbold (Coleorton) formerly under private ownership has been taken over by the Council.

No scheme of Extension of Drainage or Sewerage is under consideration at present.

(3) Closet Accommodation:-

Total number in District on 31st December 1942.

(1) Privies...1226... (2) Pail Closets...1083...(3) W.C's... 573...

Number of closets converted to water carriage system during year:-

(a) Privies...27.... (b) Pail closets...8...

No.of privies converted to pail closets during the year...17.

(4) Public Cleansing:-

House refuse is removed by direct labour. The Council have three Karrier Bantam Refuse Collecting Vehicles each with a 350 gallon night soil tank.
Dry refuse is carted to tips and wet refuse to agricultural land. Earth closets, privies and cesspools are cleansed by direct manual labour. There are no mechanical aids.

Extra strain has been put on the Sanitary Services due to collecting Salvage and to difficulty in obtaining suitable labour. There are also 250 official evacuees, together with an unknown number of private evacuees.

(5) Salvage:-

Salvage is being collected by the Local Authority and also by means of voluntary organisations e.g. Scouts, Girl Guides, Schoolchildren etc. The salvage is collected fortnightly. Considerable time is taken up with collecting salvage in the villages and increases the intervals in the collection of night soil and dust bins. Whenever possible efforts are made to collect night soil weekly and dustbins fortnightly.

Classes of salvage are waste paper, rubber, metal, tins, rags, fibre, bones, bottles, batteries and jam jars.

(6) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of complaints received .....181....

Total number of defects or nuisances discovered.....85....

	Inspections.	Revisits.
Dwelling Houses (all purposes)	724	1,197
Tents, Vans, etc.	4	6
Slaughter Houses	9	0
Food Premises	44	5
Dairies & Cowsheds.	241	136
Offensive Trades	-	-
Animal Keeping	-	-
Workshops, etc.	26	3
Shops.	14	-
Other Premises.	10	-
Total	1,072	1,347

Notices.

Preliminary	Housing.	Other.
Outstanding on 1st January	26	11
Issued during year	111	422
Complied with during year	58	403
Statutory action necessary	4	31
Outstanding 31st December	79	30

Statutory	Housing.	Other.
Outstanding on 1st January	6	0
Issued during year	4	31
Complied with during year	3	20
Outstanding 31st December	7	11

Summary Action.

No. of Summonses Issued.	No. of Convictions obtained.
3	3

(7) Shops:-

No action taken under the Provisions of the Shops Act,1934.

(8) Camping Sites:-

Nil.

(9) Regulated Buildings:-

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District, no offensive trades or Tents, Vans or Sheds.

(10) Eradication of Bugs:-

No complaints were received during the year.

There was no rehousing in Council Houses in 1942.

(11) Schools:-

No schools were disinfected during the year.

(12) Swimming Baths and Pools:-

There are none in the district.

Section D.

Milk Supply:-

Cowkeepers.

No. on Register.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Contraventions. Outstanding from previous year.	Found during year	Remedied during year	Outstanding on Dec. 31st.
199	147	12	110	103	19

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers)

No. on Register.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Contraventions. Outstanding from previous year.	Found during year	Remedied during year	Outstanding on Dec. 31st.
2	5	-	-	-	-

Total Contraventions.

	Outstanding from previous year.	Found during year.	Remedied during year	Outstanding on 31st Dec.
Cleansing	-	42	42	-
Structural Alterations	6	35	25	16
Utensils	-	9	9	-
Other	4	24	25	3

Milk Sampling.

Class.	Total no. of samples taken for bacteriological examination	No. Satisfactory.	No. Unsatisfactory.
Designated "Tuberculin Tested"	-	-	-
"Accredited"	14	12	2
"Pasteurised"	-	-	-
Ordinary	49	44	5

The Bacteriological Reports are notified to the Producers and in the event of an adverse report the Producer is cautioned and instructed what steps must be carried out to ensure the production of clean milk.

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936 to 1941.

No. of Licences issued in respect of								
"Tuberculin Tested"			"Accredited"			"Pasteurised"		
Bottling	Distribution Dealers.	Supplementary.	Bottling	Distribution Dealers.	Supplementary	Pasteurising plants.	Retail Distribution Dealers.	Supplementary
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1

There are 59 Accredited Producers in the District who have received Licences from the Leicestershire County Council.

Licensed Pasteurising Plants.....Nil....

No. of Plants for heating milk not licensed as Pasteuring Plants..Nil..

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Regional Slaughter Houses in the Area.....Nil...
Number of Animals slaughtered in "do" .....Nil...
Number of Animals examined in "do" .....Nil...
Number of Animals slaughtered elsewhere .....32....
Number of Animals examined elsewhere .....32....
Number of Inspections of meat at time of slaughter..32....
Number of Knacker Yards in Area .....1....
Number of visits to Knacker Yard .....8....

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

Of the carcases inspected none showed either Tuberculosis only, or all diseases except Tuberculosis.
No carcase or part was condemned.

Meat Stalls:-
Number of Inspections .....Nil.

Meat Shops, Meat Stores, etc.
Number of Inspections .....18..

Places where food (other than Meat) is kept or prepared for sale.
Number of Inspections .....26..

The food inspected and condemned during 1942 included eggs, tinned pork, ham, beef, sausage meat, pilchards, onions, tomatoes, carrots, peas, milk and jam.

Section E.

Housing.

(1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....393...
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....725...

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 .....127...
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....259...

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....127...

(2) Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .....58...

(3) Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act,1936
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..... Nil...

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
(a) By Owners .....Nil...
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners.Nil..

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-
(1) Number of dwelling houses in which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....4...

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:-
(a) By Owner .....1...
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners.Nil..

(c) Proceedings under 11 and 13 of the Housing Act,1936.
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition orders were made .....Nil...

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ....Nil....

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act,1936.
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ....Nil...

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or underground room having been rendered fit ....Nil...

(4) Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a)(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ....Nil...
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ....Nil...
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ....Nil...

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ....5...

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year ....5...
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...43...

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ..Nil...

(e) Owing to the influx of surface coal workers and war workers, with building operations at a standstill some cases of overcrowding are bound to occur and it is impossible to deal with same under present circumstances.

Other sanitary conditions requiring notice :-

295 houses were inspected during the year with a view to post war demolition. These have not been included elsewhere in this report.

Section F.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during year 1942

Diseases.	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	36	27	0
Whooping Cough	1	-	0
Diphtheria	6	6	2
Erysipelas	7	-	0
Measles	104	-	0
Pneumonia	32	-	5 (all forms)
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	0

Age Distribution of Cases of Infectious Disease.

Age Period	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia.
Under 1 year	0	0	0	2
1 - 2	2	0	0	2
2 - 3	1	0	0	1
3 - 4	1	2	0	2
4 - 5	0	0	0	0
5 - 10	15	0	0	3
10 - 15	13	1	0	0
15 - 20	2	2	0	4
20 - 35	1	1	0	5
35 - 45	0	0	1	7
45 - 65	1	0	4	4
65 and over	0	0	2	2
	M.13 F.23	.2 F.4	M.4 F.3	M.18. F.14
	36	6	7	32

No action was taken under the Public Health Act 1925, Section 66, or under Section 176 of the Public Health Act 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

Tuberculosis.
New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 - 5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 - 15	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	0
15 - 25	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
25 - 35	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
35 - 45	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
45 - 55	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
55 - 65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4	2	2	2	3	2	3	0
	6		4		5		3	
	10				8			

The notification of Tuberculosis was satisfactory
No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 or under section 62, Public Health Act 1925 or section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936.

The chief features with regard to Infectious Diseases during the year were:-

Scarlet Fever. 36 cases were notified throughout the year. The cases were mild in type and no deaths occurred.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch Rural District case rate = 2.7 per 1000 population.

England & Wales case rate = 2.19 per 1000 population.

Diphtheria. 6 cases were notified during the year. One case in a female aged 3 years at Griffydam in January. Two cases in Females aged 22 years and 19 years at Coleorton and Measham in March. One case in October in a boy of 3 years at Oakthorpe. One case in November in a schoolgirl of 13 years at Newton Burgoland. One case in December in a youth of 17 at Measham.
None of the above cases had been immunised against diphtheria.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch Rural Diphtheria Case Rate = 0.45 per 1000 population.

England & Wales Diphtheria Case Rate 1942 = 1.05 per 1000 population.

Two deaths occurred from diphtheria during 1942. They were cases admitted to Hospital at the end of the previous year.
A scheme of immunisation against Diphtheria is being carried out by means of sessions held at the Schools in the villages throughout the area.
At the end of December 1942 the estimated percentage of children who had completed immunisation treatment (including those done privately) was:-

1 to 4 years (inclusive)	5 to 14 years (inclusive)
33%	72%

Measles. An outbreak of measles occurred in the last four months of the year. 104 cases were notified during 1942. The chief ages affected were 3 to 6 years and all parishes in the district were affected. No deaths were attributed to measles during 1942.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch Rural Measles Case Rate = 7.8 per 1000 population

England & Wales Measles Case Rate = 7.46 per 1000 population.

Acute Pneumonia. 32 cases were notified throughout the year. Five deaths were attributed to pneumonia (all types)

Erysipelas. Seven cases were notified during the year. No deaths occurred.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch R.D. Case Rate = 0.52 per 1000 population

England & Wales Erysipelas Case Rate 1942 = 0.3 per 1000 population.

Whooping Cough. One case was notified in 1942. No death occurred.

Puerperal Pyrexia. One case notified. No death occurred from Puerperal Sepsis or other Maternal Causes.

I wish to express my thanks to Mr.J.P.Cook, Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector for his valuable help in compiling this report. Many of the figures are taken from his Annual Summary.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS FORSYTH,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.